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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **FUJI PHOTO FILM B. V.** [NL/NL]; Oudenstaart 1, NL-5000 LJ Tilburg (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ALDEA, Eugen** [RO/NL]; Strijpsestraat 39 B, NL-5616 GK Eindhoven (NL). **BOUWSTRA, Jan, Bastiaan** [NL/NL]; Soestdijkseweg Zuid 202, NL-3721 AJ Bilthoven (NL). **VAN DE SANDEN, Mauritijs, Cornelius, Maria** [NL/NL]; P.F. Bergmansstraat 4, NL-5017 JH Tilburg (NL). **DE VRIES, Hindrik, Willem** [NL/NL]; Hooglandstraat 22, NL-5045 CM Tilburg (NL).

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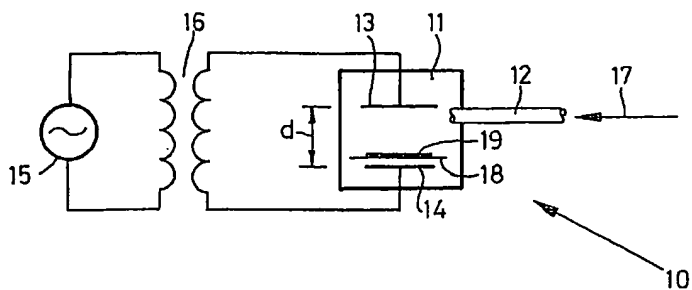
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STABILIZING A GLOW DISCHARGE PLASMA UNDER ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS**



(57) Abstract: Method and apparatus for generating and sustaining a glow discharge plasma in a plasma discharge space comprising at least two spaced electrodes. The method and apparatus are arranged for performing the steps of introducing in the discharge space a gas or gas mixture under atmospheric pressure conditions, energizing the electrodes by applying an AC energizing voltage ( $V_a$ ) to the electrodes, and controlling the energizing voltage ( $V_a$ ) such that at plasma generation a sharp relative decrease of displacement current is provided.

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